

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03312 091101Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /068 W
-----091112Z 084449 /21

R 090853Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6001
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONLULU, HI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KN, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON NORTH KOREAN SUCCESSION

1. SOVIET EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR KOMAROVSKY TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 9
THAT HE BELIEVED REPORT KIM CHONG-IL WOULD SUCCEED FATHER AND THAT
ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE MADE ON KIM IL-SUNG'S SIXTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY
APRIL 15. KOMAROVSKY HAD NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF SUCCESSION ANNOUNCEMENT
,

BUT BASED HIS ASSESSMENT ON ATTITUDES AND COMMENTS OF
CHONGRYUN (CHOSOREN) CONTACTS, WHO SPEAK OF KIM CHONG-IL IN TONES OF
RESPECT RESERVED ONLY FOR TOP LEADERS. KOMAROVSKY SPECULATED THAT KIM

CHONG-IL HAD HELD POSITION OF HIGH RESPONSIBILITY FOR YEARS AND THAT
KIM IL-SUNG WOULD HAND OVER POWER GRADUALLY.

2. ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON FATHER-SON SUCCESSION IN COMMUNIST SOCIETY
KOMAROVSKY COMMENTED THAT DYNASTIES HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER
TO DO WITH SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM, BUT HAD DEEP ROOTS IN
ASIAN POLITICAL TRADITION. HE HAD HEARD FROM GHONGRYUN CONTACTS THAT
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YOUNGER KIM EXTREMELY COMPETENT AND SUGGESTED THAT
APPOINTMENT BASED ON MERIT. AS A YOUNG MAN (36), KIM MIGHT
BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN HIS FATHER, KOMAROVSKY CONCLUDED.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Message ID: f0bed1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Subject: SOVIET VIEWS ON NORTH KOREAN SUCCESSION
TAGS: PINT, KN, UR, (KIM CHONG-IL)
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